

May 16th, 2023

Conference Committee on Senate File 2995
Minnesota State Capitol
75 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

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Re: Rochester Chamber Business Coalition Opposition to Senate File 2995 Omnibus Health and Human Services Bill

Conference Committee Members,

The Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce along with a coalition of over 50 area businesses emphasize our opposition to Senate File 2995 (SF2995) and communicate the challenges that it will present to the Rochester area, the business community, and to the healthcare industry. Minnesota is world renowned as the epicenter of healthcare and home to outstanding health care providers, including Mayo Clinic, which is the largest private employer in the state. The ongoing development of Mayo Clinic has a significant impact on industry, small business, and workforce of the Rochester region and throughout Minnesota. Their investments in communities encourages the growth of many industries, including construction and technology, and supports the hospitality industry as they attract patients and talent with world-class health care. This economic growth and talent development could be threatened by proposed legislation that will greatly impact the health care system of Minnesota. We are writing today to express the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce's opposition to provisions of SF2995 that seek to limit a business' ability to meet its development and operational needs.

SF2995 would create a staffing committee which has the authority to impose the number of employees operating in health care facilities. The mandated staffing model included in the legislation would remove the operational and staffing flexibility of health care providers, creating an obstacle in their ability to provide world-class health care. Staffing and operational decisions such as these should be made by the organization as a whole, not by a committee mandated by legislation. Instead, the legislature should consider the recommendations of our state's experienced health care providers in establishing and meeting their high standards in staffing and patient care.

The healthcare industry faces ongoing workforce challenges, including a nursing shortfall, and the staffing mandate noted in SF2995 would only add to the current workforce shortage. We recommend the legislature focus on licensing and similar efforts to ease the shortage rather than worsening it.

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This proposed legislation will also impose a Health Care Affordability Board to oversee rates in the health care sector. There are numerous concerns with its design that would impact Mayo Clinic, Olmsted Medical Center, and other providers throughout Minnesota. Independence of groups and boards such as the proposed Health Care Affordability Board is crucial and we recommend an appointment process that focuses on finding the correct expertise to serve on the board that is free of political and legislative agendas. Organizations should also have the ability to meet their own business needs, and we recommend to establish the board as a recommending body, removing their authority to dictate policy.

The Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce and our coalition stands united with our health care providers, Mayo Clinic and Olmsted Medical Center, in our opposition to the above proposals included in SF2995 which would impose unnecessary mandates on the healthcare industry and stifle wage growth, innovation, and investment in our state.

Our health care partners are a vital asset to the health of the community, development of talent, and the continued business and economic growth in Rochester and throughout Minnesota. Given the unnecessary burden that this would place on the healthcare industry, we ask you to amend SF2995 with the aforementioned recommendations.

Sincerely,

Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce

**Residence Inn and Suites by Marriot
Mayo Clinic Area South**

Benike Construction

Rochester Area Builders

Broadway Plaza

**Rochester Area Economic
Development, Inc. (RAEDI)**

Café Aqui

Rochester Athletic Club

Carpet One of Rochester

Rochester Car Clearance Center

CRAVE

Rochester Chevrolet Cadillac

Custom Alarm

Rochester City Lines

DeWitz Home Builders

Rochester Collision Center

Fagan Studios

Rochester Ford

Goodin Company

Rochester Mazda

Grinde & Dicke Law Firm P.A.

Rochester Plumbing & Heating

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Hamilton Real Estate Group

Hanny's

HGA

Home2 Suites by Hilton Mayo Clinic Area

Innovative Building Concepts

Integrated Technology Engineering, Inc.

**International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
- Local Union 681**

Maria Serbus LLC

North Rock Real Estate

Olmsted Holding Corporation

Olmsted Medical Center

ONB Bank

**Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce &
Tourism**

Premier Banks Minnesota

Powers Ventures

Real Deals Rochester

Rochester Quicklane on 2nd

Rochester Toyota

RSP Architects

Sorellina's Italian

Sports Headquarters

Superior Mechanical

The Preserve at West Circle

The Tap House on Historic Third

The Tap House on West End

Titan 360

Titan Development & Investments

**TownePlace Suites by Marriot Mayo
Clinic Area**

Victoria's Restaurant

Weller Brothers Landscaping

Wenland Utz, Ltd.

West Bank

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SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

